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TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111

Parks & Recreation Department
Building a Strong Community

William A. DeMaio, CPRP
Superintendent

COMMUNITY GARDENS - RULES (2016)

The Community Gardens are located next to the farmhouse at the Young Farm, 282 Church Street, Newington. The 20 x 20 foot plots are available to Newington residents; one plot per household. Cost for each plot is \$25. Each plot will be rototilled and staked by the Town and will be ready by late April (weather permitting). Water will be available. Please bring a watering can.

- Rocks and debris must be kept out of the pathways and mowing areas; place rocks in designated areas only.
- Use only Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) approved organic pesticides.
- All cleanup and removal of non-degradable items from garden plots must be completed by October 16, 2016.
- If plots are not claimed or worked on by July 1, they will become available to another resident.
- Permanent fixtures (watering systems, etc.) or sprinklers of any kind may not be used on garden plots.
- An adult must be present when any watering is done. Irresponsible use (e.g., leaving faucets running, letting children play in the gardens) will not be tolerated.
- Pets must be on a leash and attended at all times.
- Bicycles are not allowed on garden walkways or plots.
- **BEGINNING PLANTING DATE:** Plots will be available for use when the gardens have been tilled and staked which is expected to occur in late April (weather permitting). **You may begin using your plot when the numbered stakes marking plot boundaries are in place.** BE SURE YOU WORK ONLY THE PLOT YOU RENTED.
- **COMPOST & MULCH:** For weed suppression, gardeners may use their own *biodegradable* mulch such as straw, grass clippings, biodegradable mats, etc. Materials that do not decompose, such as carpet, black plastic, fabric weed barrier, etc. are prohibited.
- **REFUSE:** An area is designated at each garden site for weeds and organic waste to be stockpiled. Other areas are designated for rocks. **Trash cans will not be supplied. Please remove your own non-organic trash (paper, plant pots, etc.) from the garden area.** Do not throw litter or refuse elsewhere in the garden area.
- **VANDALISM:** Security is not provided. Vandalism and theft can be a problem, especially during harvesting season. If you notice unauthorized people in the gardens or suspicious activity, please help your gardening neighbors by calling the Police Department at 860-666-8445.
- **WEEDY / UNCARED FOR PLOTS:** These plots are a potential source of weed seeds and pests and contribute to a ragged appearance. **Neglected plots may be cleared and/or re-rented if the gardener does not take appropriate action within two weeks of notification.** If you plan to be on vacation for an extended period of time, please ask a neighboring gardener, relative or friend to care for your plot in your absence. If you wish to discontinue using your plot, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 860-665-8666.

COMMUNITY GARDENS - RULES (2016) - continued

- **WATER:** The water faucets are shared with other gardeners. Let the Parks & Recreation Department know if the faucets are not working properly.
- **GARDEN MAINTENANCE:** Individual garden plots and adjacent pathways shall be maintained by the renters.
- **BE NEIGHBORLY:** Be a good neighbor to your fellow gardeners. Do not exceed your own garden boundaries. Be considerate when using water, hoses, mulch, etc. Please keep a clear path between gardens. Please discard unwanted or unnecessary items properly. **Call the Parks & Recreation Department to inform us of problems that occur regarding your garden plot.**
- **CROP REMOVAL:** Shortly after October 16, 2016, the Town mows and prepares the plots for winter. Materials you may leave behind in your plot include anything that can be safely turned into the soil, such as plant stems, leaves, crops you don't want, and organic mulches. **All other materials must be removed.**

Failure to comply with these Rules will result in doubling the user fee the following season for the first offense and forfeiture of gardening privileges for the second offense.

February 4, 2016